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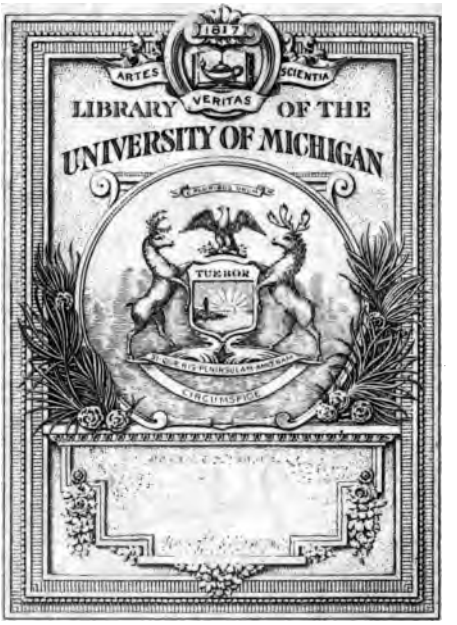
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The Cataloguing of MSS.

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A Letter

ADDRESSED TO MEMBERS OF CONGREGATION

BY

THE OUTGOING JUNIOR PROCTOR

9 APRIL, 1890

Oxford

HORACE HART, PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY

1890

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THE CATALOGUING OF MSS. IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY.

1. I VENTURE to address Members of Congregation on the subject of the cataloguing of MSS. in the Bodleian Library, this being a matter which widely affects their interests and which seems to me to require immediate and careful consideration. I am ready to admit that in some ways it is an impertinence for an individual to put himself forward in such a matter; but I believe that the position of the Library, as the great common possession of the University and the most important of our trusts, is so far above any personal considerations about the insufficiency of the speaker or writer as to justify forwardness in expressing opinions on the part of any one who is convinced that its policy requires to be reconsidered, or at least vindicated. I have also this additional justification, that I have been assured by many Members of Congregation that a full statement of facts, and a detailed expression of opinion, on this subject would be cordially received.

I may premise that the question seems to be one which may be discussed without reserve; since the chief data for the discussion may be collected, as they have been in the main collected by me, from the printed and MS. volumes placed on the open reference shelves in the Library.

I may premise also that I cannot vouch for the exactness to units of the more fixed figures stated in this paper. Some of the estimates have had to be made up from volumes and papers in some of which the reckoning of

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numbers was attended with difficulty and in others of which the statements were occasionally indistinct. We are however dealing with numbers on so great a scale that these minor misreckonings may be neglected, as not really affecting the main question at issue. I have also compared my figures with similar figures made independently by another reader in the Library, and found that the comparison substantially confirms them.

As regards the round numbers, a certain amount of latitude must be postulated: I have however in every case indicated the data on which the round number is estimated.

2. General feeling of dissatisfaction with the condition of Catalogue of MSS.

Most students, whose work has led them to consult MSS. in the Bodleian, must have felt after a day or two's experience of the Library that the Catalogue of MSS. is in an unsatisfactory condition. Many students have from time to time given expression to this feeling of dissatisfaction. And last term an important memorial was presented to the Curators of the Library asking them to consider the propriety of instituting a different system of cataloguing MSS.

Few students, however, unless they have either enjoyed exceptional facilities for consulting our MS. Collections as they stand on the shelves, or have actually worked out from the official lists the proportion of uncatalogued MSS. to catalogued and of unindexed MSS. to indexed, can give any precise statement of the grounds for their dissatisfaction.

It is a precise statement of this sort that this paper seeks to furnish. In former years, in the course of my ordinary work, having myself shared in the general sense of dissatisfaction with the cataloguing of our MSS., last year in the course of my official duty I analyzed both the Catalogue so far as it exists and the conditions under which it is being continued, with the result of convincing myself that the existing system is, with the staff available, a bad one,—

that is, one which lessens the usefulness of the Library and is a grave impediment to the progress of learning.

Four points will claim attention, as I proceed :—

(I) The proof that the Catalogue of MSS. is defective (paragraph 4 sqq.);

(II) The proof that the setting right of the defects is, under the present system, beyond realisation within any reasonable period of time (par. 23 sqq.);

(III) The explanation of the origin of the defects (par. 27); and

(IV) The suggestion of a workable scheme for remedying them (par. 28 sqq.).

3. Number of MSS., etc., requiring to be catalogued.

The official estimate of MSS. in the Library in 1885 put their number at 26,598 volumes: it may therefore be assumed that their number may now be roughly stated as rather over than under 27,000.

For the purposes of an analysis of the Catalogue of MSS., this number must be distributed into four sections :—

(*a*) *The Oriental*, which comprises some 8000 or 8500 MSS. These are very largely Hebrew, Arabic, Sanskrit, Persian; and in a smaller degree Chinese, Burmese, etc. This section of the Library is exceptionally fortunate in its Catalogues, and may be trusted to continue so. For, clearly, MSS. in exceptional languages will, in the future as in the past, be catalogued in special Catalogues, by outside help, and not by the ordinary staff of the Library.

(*b*) *Charters, rolls, deeds, etc.* These documents form a distinct section of the wealth of the Library, and require special treatment in a special Catalogue. This a large portion of them have already received in the 'Calendar of Charters and Rolls,' published by the Library in 1878. But a good deal of work remains to be done in this department; and this may form a considerable task for the staff of the Library even after the completion of the Catalogue of MSS. (in the limited sense in which I propose to employ the

word). A large portion of these documents are as yet unbound, and therefore not reckoned in the estimate of volumes. For those which are bound I set aside, as a fair guess, 100 volumes; of which a portion are catalogued in a Library printed Catalogue.

(*c*) *State papers.* The Carte papers, in 274 volumes; the Clarendon papers (about 11,000 in number), possibly in 100 volumes; Dolben papers, in 3 volumes; the Fortescue papers, in 4 volumes. These also require exceptional treatment in special Catalogues or Calendars. A portion of them have been so dealt with. Three volumes of the 'Calendar of the Clarendon State Papers' (1869–1876) have been published; and, as is stated in the sequel, the Library is contemplating the continuation of this Calendar. A considerable portion of a Calendar of the Carte papers exists in MS.; and is accessible to readers, though without index. The Fortescue papers have been reported on by the Historical MSS. Commission; the Carte papers by Sir T. Duffus Hardy.

In all, this section of the Library contains say 381 volumes; of which say 50 are catalogued in a Library printed Catalogue.

(*d*) *Western MSS. in volumes.* The remaining portions of the MSS. of the Library may be put together under the general head of Western MSS. in volumes. Deducting Oriental, 8500 volumes, and Charters and State papers, say 500 volumes, from the total of 27,000, we have 18,000 volumes as a rough estimate for this section.

As regards its numerical importance, therefore, it contains two-thirds of the total MS. volumes in the Library. As regards its intrinsic importance it contains all those volumes in Latin, Greek, and the modern languages of Europe, which are of interest to the vast majority of students in the Library.

The cataloguing of the MSS. in this section of the Library is, as I shall endeavour to show, in an unsatisfactory state.

4. I. Defects of the Catalogue of Western MSS.

In what follows these defects will be noted under three heads:—

(A) The absence of a general inventory of MSS. (paragraph 5);

(B) The fragmentary and irregular character of the portions of the Catalogue which exist (paragraphs 6–18);

(C) Special inconveniences arising from the present state of the Catalogue of MSS. (paragraphs 19–23).

5. Defect A. There is no inventory of MSS. in the Library.

When a student enters the Library and desires to find out what MSS. exist of any author (other than in Greek) or on any subject, ancient, mediæval, or modern, he at once discovers that the Library cannot answer his question. To take a definite instance: suppose a classical student to say, 'I wish to survey the MSS. of Terence (see par. 33, § iii) in the Bodleian,' the Library would be bound to answer that, 'with the expenditure of a great deal of labour, we shall be able to set before you most of our MSS. of that author; but, with all our trouble, we cannot be certain that we have given you all, or even our most valuable MSS. We do not know ourselves what we have got, since our indexes are notoriously imperfect; and we have no ready method by which we can find out.'

The inconvenience of this I need not stop to comment on: but that it is experienced, has been frequently shown.

6. Defect B. The Catalogue of MSS., so far as it exists, consists of a number of disconnected fragments.

We have seen that it is impossible to give a direct answer to the question what MSS. of Terence are in the Library; we must next examine what could actually be said in lieu of a direct answer.

The student would be directed to the following sets of fragments, partly in MS., partly in print, partly on one

system of cataloguing, partly on another, partly with and partly without accessible indexes.

(*a*) Certain printed volumes of the Quarto Series of Catalogues, with indexes (see paragraph 7 *infra*).

(*b*) Certain MS. parts of volumes in continuation of the Quarto Series, with indexes indirectly accessible (see paragraph 8 *infra*).

(*c*) The Old Catalogue printed in 1697 ('Catalogus Librorum MSS. Angliae et Hiberniae,' tom. 1, par. 1), which may be conveniently cited as O. C. (see paragraph 9).

(*d*) A MS. continuation of the O. C. in an interleaved copy of it (see par. 10).

(*e*) Certain indexes (without catalogues) of some Collections (see par. 11).

(*f*) Certain Hand-lists or very brief Catalogues (without indexes) of other Collections (see par. 12).

(*g*) The knowledge that there were Collections for which no help could be given him (see par. 13).

(*h*) The absence of knowledge that there were volumes in the Library of whose existence no statement had been made (see par. 14).

(*i*) Special printed Catalogues for certain Collections (see par. 16).

(*k*) Special MS. Catalogues for certain Collections (see par. 17).

Before I enter on the examination of each of these heads in detail, I have to premise that the defects I allege make no claim to be exhaustive. They are simply those points which have accidentally brought themselves to my notice in the course of my own reading (which accounts for the obtrusive frequency of the first personal pronoun), with the addition of a few other points noted in a very general survey of the Catalogue or reported to me within the last two months by a few readers in the Library. I believe that a systematic investigation into the deficiencies of the Catalogue, or a wider enquiry among students, would reveal more, of which those I allege are only specimens.

7. **Defect B (continued)**: (*a*) *the printed Quarto Catalogues.*

For the volumes of Western MSS. now under consideration, the first and most considerable guide, so far as it goes, is the printed portion of the Quarto Catalogue, the publication of which began in 1853[1].

As this series stands on the consulting shelves of the Library, it consists of nine volumes, viz., the Catalogues of the Ashmole (1845–1866), Canonici (two volumes, 1854 and 1864), Digby (1883), Laud (1858–1885), Rawlinson (A, B, C sections, two volumes, one index, 1862–1875), and Tanner (1860) Collections, and Coxe's Catalogue of Greek MSS. (1853). These nine volumes involve *eight* distinct indexes.

The first question which arises in connection with this portion of the Catalogue is—May it be regarded as final and in no need of revision or supplement?

In answer to that question it may be pointed out that there are mis-statements and omissions in these volumes. Professor Skeat, in the beginning of the present Easter vacation, has indicated two instances in the department of English literature. In the Quarto Laud Catalogue, 'MS. Laud Misc. 735' is said to contain Thomas Occleve's translation of Aegidius de Columna 'de regimine principum.' But, as Professor Skeat has pointed out, there are about a dozen other pieces by Occleve and one by Lydgate, which are unnoticed in the Catalogue. The last piece has been taken as occupying the whole book. This will serve as an example of omission. Again, in the Quarto Tanner Catalogue, the first three pieces in 'MS. Tanner 346' are attributed to Chaucer; but, as Professor Skeat has pointed out, the second is by Occleve, and the third by Lydgate.

These are very serious mistakes: I can, from my own experience, supply instances of minor omissions. The cataloguer of the Tanner MSS. was ignorant of the fact that 'MS. Tanner 416' is the middle portion of O.C. 8567

[1] Later on I have reckoned the Ashmole (1845) as a Bodleian Catalogue, but this was not executed for the Bodleian nor by its staff.

('MS. Wood E. 3'), which was marked in the Library copy of the Wood Catalogue as *lost*. Similarly, the Catalogue of the Rawlinson MSS. makes no note of the fact that 'MS. Rawl. C. 910' is the first portion of O.C. 8473 ('MS. Wood F. 11') which the Library copy of the Wood Catalogue was representing as *still in the Wood MS.* Both points, although not affecting the contents of the individual MSS., are of some importance as regards the whereabouts of MSS. in the Library.

But apart from any question as to the perfection or imperfection of these printed volumes of the Quarto Catalogue, a second question forces itself on our notice:—viz., to what proportion of the MSS. of the Library do they give access?

The answer is, to less than 7000, out of a total of 18,000 volumes of Western MSS.

The figures in detail are as follows:—Ashmole (including '50 Ashmole rolls'), 723 volumes, according to the official estimate; Canonici, 1643 volumes; Digby, 241 volumes (including 5 'rolls'); Laud (Lat. and Misc.), 875; Rawl. A, B, and C, together, 2009; Tanner, 468; Coxe's Greek (including Barocci, Laud Greek, etc.), 944:—total, 6903.

A third question arises:—viz., of this printed Quarto Series what portion represents the 17th century collections (catalogued in 1697) and what the 18th and 19th century accessions? The answer is:—That, of the above volumes, the Ashmole, the Digby, and Laud, and the greater part of the Greek Catalogues, amounting to say 2700 volumes, represent a revision of the Catalogue made in 1697 (when the Library, including Oriental MSS., possessed some 7000 MSS.); the Canonici, Rawlinson, Tanner, and a small portion of the Greek Collection, amounting in all to less than 4300 volumes, represent what has been done in the Quarto Catalogue towards cataloguing the whole number of Western MSS. (well over 11,000) which have been added since 1697.

8. Defect B (continued): (*b*) *the MS. continuations of the Quarto Catalogue.*

In approaching the consideration of these in detail,

I have to ask the reader, as he proceeds, to give attention in each case to these two points :—

(*α*) The fragmentary and disjointed character and the occasional insignificance of the volumes.

(*β*) The separation of the indexes into several sets, and the unavoidable difficulties in the way of consulting them.

[Note that the numbers assigned to the separate volumes are added by me, not stamped on the volumes themselves.]

(i) Vol. 1 and vol. 2, by Mr. Madan. Vol. 1 is a fragment on the Quarto scale of a Catalogue of the Collection known as 'Bodley MSS.' This Collection is stated to contain 1057 volumes, of which only 110 are catalogued; the Catalogue has made no progress since 1882. Vol. 2 is a fragment on the same scale of MSS. in the 1697 Catalogue which have not been 'fully catalogued' elsewhere. Apparently some 75 MSS. have been catalogued out of about 2500; and the Catalogue has made no progress since 1884.

The joint total of these two volumes has, however, to be reduced from 185 to 142, because 43 MSS. seem on examination to be common to both volumes.

The indexes to these two volumes of Catalogue (142 MSS.) have been, of course, sorted together so as to form one index. This index exists only in MS. slips, in a box kept in Mr. Madan's study. It can hardly be consulted without the supervision of (and consequently the waste of the time of) some one of the staff or of an assistant; because a careless consulter might readily throw the whole into confusion and necessitate its being re-sorted. I assume that a reader has the right to ask to consult it.

(ii) Vol. 3 and vol. 4, also by Mr. Madan. Vol. 3 is an appendix to the Catalogue of Greek MSS., and catalogues 41 MSS.; vol. 4 is a Catalogue of Additional Greek MSS. (i. e. those since 1887) and catalogues 21 MSS. Together, therefore, 62 MSS.

The indexes to these two volumes of Catalogue have

been, of course, sorted together; are kept in Mr. Madan's study; and present the same difficulties in their consultation as the preceding.

(iii) Vols. 5–8, also by Mr. Madan. These represent:—vol. 5, the Catalogue of 'MS. Bodley Add. A,' vol. 6, that of 'MS. Bodl. Add. B,' vol. 7, that of 'MS. Bodl. Add. C,' and vol. 8, those of 'MS. Bodl. Add. D and E.' In all, it appears that 535 volumes have been catalogued out of 913 volumes.

As will be seen, however, from the table which follows each volume is in itself a fragment.

	Catalogued.	Not catalogued.
Add. A.;	nos. 1–173 and 282–378 [270];	nos. 174–281 [108]
Add. B.;	nos. 1– 50 and 105–119 [65];	nos. 51–104 [54]
Add. C.;	nos. 1–119 and 265–293 [148];	nos. 120–264 [145]
Add. D.;	nos. 1– 40 and 99–108 [50];	nos. 41– 98 [58]
Add. E.;	nos. 14 and 15 [2];	nos. 1– 13 [13]
	Total:—Catalogued = 535	not catalogued = 378

The indexes to these 4 volumes of Catalogue (representing 535 MSS.) are sorted (with other indexes which will be specified in (iv) into one index. This index exists only in MS. slips; is kept in Mr. Madan's study; and the consulting of it is surrounded with the difficulties noted above in (i).

[It will be shown in the sequel that under the present system some years must elapse before the gaps in these Catalogues can be filled up.]

(iv) Vols. 9–11, also by Mr. Madan. These appear to represent the Catalogues of certain accessions since 1886:—vol. 9, the Catalogue of 'Additional English MSS.,' some 210 MSS. in all; vol. 10, that of 'Additional Latin MSS.,' 73 MSS.; vol. 11, that of 'Additional MSS. in Miscellaneous Languages,' 9 MSS.

In each case the volume of the Catalogue is split up into several sub-divisions, according to the plan now in use.

In all, these three Catalogues represent 292 MSS. The

indexes to them are incorporated with the indexes specified in (iii).

(v) Vol. 12, also by Mr. Madan. This volume contains a Catalogue of 8 volumes of the series known as 'MS. Autograph,' of which further notice will be taken later on.

The index to it, I assume, falls into the index in (iii).

(vi) Vol. 13, also by Mr. Madan. This volume catalogues 144 MSS. deposited in the Library by the Clarendon Press.

The volume has an index of its own in MS. slips, kept in Mr. Madan's study, and beset by the difficulties specified above in (i). This volume with its index, unlike the others, is ready for the press.

(vii) Volumes 14–17, by Mr. Macray. These volumes catalogue 737 volumes of the Rawlinson D series of MSS., in continuation of Mr. Macray's Catalogues of Rawl. A, B, C. In addition to these, at the present date (April, 1890), 46 more volumes have been catalogued and may soon be bound up with the others and placed on the consulting shelf, making 783 in all. But the Rawlinson D Series contains 1369 volumes, so that 586 remain to be catalogued before the Catalogue of Rawlinson D and its index can be sent to press.

In the meantime, the index exists only in MS. slips, is kept in Mr. Macray's study, and cannot be consulted except with the difficulty specified above in (i). There is also this additional disadvantage, that at times leave to consult it *must* be refused to the reader, viz., when Mr. Macray (or some one for him) is engaged in adding fresh slips to the index.

Adding together all these fragments of Catalogues, the total result will be that in a MS. form the Quarto Series of Catalogues gives access to less than 2000 volumes (viz. 1966) out of probably about 4000 belonging to the Collections they touch.

The inconveniences of searching a fragmentary Cata-

logue in 17 volumes of MS. (whose indexes are not only separated from the volumes themselves and divided into five distinct sets, but if to be consulted at all can only be consulted under the supervision of an attendant) are sufficiently obvious.

9. Defect B (continued): (*c*) *the Old Catalogue of* 1697.

When we have in (*a*) and (*b*) (as described in paragraphs 7 and 8) obtained access, in whatever way (convenient or inconvenient), by Catalogues on a uniform scale to less than 9000 out of a total of 18,000 Western MSS., we must for the remaining 9000 have recourse to Catalogues of different dates, different values, and constructed on different scales.

The first of these is the Old Catalogue printed in 1697, which may be taken as giving a clue to possibly some 2,500 volumes beyond those given in (*a*) and (*b*) above.

This O. C. has its merits. As giving a rough clue to the MS. contents of the Library up to 1697, it has been justly described as 'Edward Bernard's most useful volume.' But it has very great defects. It gives, as a rule, no indication of date, scribe, condition; and, frequently, no statement of the language of the MS. (for example, it often fails to state whether a MS. of a Greek author is in Greek or is a Latin translation); sometimes its list of contents is false; its index is frequently defective; it altogether omits some MSS. One or two examples of each of these defects will be enough to indicate the general imperfection of the volume.

(i) Let any reader desire to find in the Library what good MSS. there are of some important work in connection with English history, say Bede's Historia Ecclesiastica. He will find (*a*) that the index gives only 'Beda' without distinction of works; (*b*) that, when he has gone through the 74 references and discovered the MSS. of the Historia, he is still without any indication of their date; and therefore (*c*) that he must send for *all* the MSS. before

he can tell whether the reference is to a seventeenth century transcript or to a MS. of reasonable antiquity. It is the same throughout with every author you can name.

(ii) From the Catalogue you are left to infer that parts of O. C. 3467 ('MS. Arch. Seld. supr. 79') may be of early or uncertain date. As a matter of fact, the MS. is in the well-known handwriting of Brian Twyne and its date can therefore be absolutely fixed.

(iii) The entry of O. C. 8596 ('MS. empt. ab Wood 2') is simply:—

'A brief chronicle from Brute to Edward I.'

Who could infer from this that the MS. is in French and of early date?

(iv) Professor Skeat's recent experience supplies illustrations of false entries of contents. O. C. 3441 ('MS. Seld. Supr. 53') is catalogued as

'Poems by John Lydgate;'

but all the pieces except the last are poems by Occleve, and so the last piece has been taken as giving the authorship of the whole.

Imagine now a student searching the index to the O. C. for MSS. of Occleve.

Again, the same scholar points out that O. C. 1504 (now 'MS. Laud Misc. 735'), catalogued as

'Thomas Occleve his poems,'

contains also a poem by Lydgate.

Imagine therefore a student searching the index to the O. C. for MSS. of Lydgate.

(v) As regards the imperfection of the index, take, e.g., John Bale: the index sub nomine 'Balæus' gives four references, one to 3094. But 3094 is 'Theodoreti Historia Ecclesiastica, Graece;' the reader has therefore to read through some 7000 entries to discover what MS. of Bale is referred to. My work recently has led me to go through many of these references, and I have found that these misprints in the index abound.

Again, Wood quotes as the authority for one of his

statements a volume of 'Conciones Latinae, Anglicanis dictionibus intermixtae,' which he says is a MS. in the Bodleian. I look up 'Conciones' in the O. C. index with some misgiving, expecting to have to wade through some hundred or hundred and fifty unclassified references. I find '*Conciones* vide Sermones.' I turn to 'Sermones'; that heading does not occur. I am still in search for that MS.

(vi) As an example of omission take the MS., 'MS. Wood D. 32.'

This is a MS. in the handwriting chiefly of Brian Twyne, extending to over 600 pages, of exceptional value for the history of Oxford, as a list of the principal contents will show. It contains:—

(*a*) Names of Authors educated at Oxford and Cambridge.

(*b*) Catalogue, with notes of their dissolution, of monasteries in England and Wales.

(*c*) Names of Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops educated at Oxford or Cambridge.

(*d*) Excerpts from charters and MSS.

(*e*) 'Mirabilia Angliae.'

(*f*) Statutes of the College of S. Mary (of Canons Regular) in Oxford.

(*g*) Inventory, A.D. 1541, of the furnishings of S. Mary's College.

(*h*) Statutes of S. George's College in Oxford Castle.

(*i*) Transcript of the old Bedell's book (with names of, and commemorations appointed for, benefactors of Oxford University).

(*k*) Transcript of the Latin statutes of the Bodleian Library.

(*l*) List of authors educated at Merton College.

(*m*) Catalogus veterum aularum Oxon (pp. 619–626).

(*n*) Excerpts from MSS. and books.

This MS. is cited by Wood both as a whole (as 'liber notarum F') and by its parts (e.g. 'Statuta Collegii

S. Mariae') as in his own possession. It came from the Ashmolean in 1860 with the other Wood MSS. There is no reason for supposing that it had not gone with them to the Ashmolean in 1695; but it is not catalogued with them.

[Its omission from the Catalogue may be thus explained: towards the end of the Wood MS. D Series, the volumes are not MS. but bundles of pamphlets; the cataloguer may have stopped when he found this, and not examined the last.]

That the volume was undiscoverable in the printed Catalogues of the Library is shown by its omission from Mr. Madan's 'MS. Materials relating to the History of Oxford contained in the printed Catalogues of the Bodleian and College Libraries' (1887).

As another example of omission, take O. C. 2657 (now 'MS. Bodl. 799'): on fol. 110b is a curious Latin poem on Chess, printed in Hyde's de Ludis Orientalibus, 1694, part i. p. 179. This is omitted in the list of contents in O. C.

(vii) A serious difficulty in using the Old Catalogue is occasioned by the changes of press-marks which have taken place. Few MSS. can be got at by the press-marks which are attached to them in the printed Old Catalogue. Recourse must be had to the Library copy, in which in most cases the modern press-marks have been attached in MS.

I can show, however, from my own experience that in the unrevised portion of the Catalogue these press-marks, although presented under official sanction, are often in error. In 1889 I took advantage of my exceptional access to the Library to go through the Wood MSS., and the following are a few of the points I noted about the Library Catalogue of these MSS. (the 1824 reprint of the 1697 Catalogue as re-edited in 1762, with press-marks added in MS.).

[The Wood Collection, catalogued in 1697 as in the Ashmolean Library, came with the rest of that Library into the Bodleian in 1860.]

(*a*) Papers were stated to be in a given volume which were not even in the Collection.

E.g. 'MS. Wood F. 11' was said to contain (O. C. 8473 part 1) 'the tithes of Oxford archdeaconry;' but this paper had (early in the 18th century) been stolen from the Ashmolean, and had been in the Bodleian since 1755 ['MS. Rawl. C. 910'].

(*b*) Papers were stated to be absolutely lost, which were in the Bodleian Library.

E.g. In 'Wood MS. D. 21' a paper giving a list of Bishops educated at Oxford was marked as lost; but it is found in a volume at present marked 'Rawl. D. 1290.' Also, in 'Wood MS. F. 11,' about 100 leaves from the middle of the MS. (O. C. 8567) were marked as lost; but the leaves are all in 'MS. Tanner 416' with the old paging to establish their identity. Further, the whole volume, O. C. 8562, was marked as lost; but it had been placed in the Bodleian Library before 1740, and is now 'MS. Bodl. 294.'

(*c*) Papers had been shifted from one volume and bound up in another, without change in the reference in the press-marks, 'Wood MS. E. 4' being still stated to contain papers which were partly in E. 2 and partly in E. 10.

A Catalogue, of which these are not the only faults, stands in much need of revision. Yet at present this O. C. is the only guide which the Library possesses to some 2500 of its MSS.

10. Defect B (continued): (*d*) *MS. additions in an interleaved copy of the* 1697 *Catalogue.*

The earlier part of the 18th century additions to the MSS. of the Library have been entered in an interleaved copy of the O. C. and indexed in the same way. The entries present all the defects of those of the O. C. itself, with this additional disadvantage, that there are many reasons for assuming the entries to have been made casually, and therefore with omissions of MSS.

Professor Skeat has recently pointed out a flagrant example of the defects of this Catalogue. 'MS. Bodl. 221' is catalogued only in this interleaved copy of the O.C., where it is entered as:—

'Lidgate's poems, fol., partly in vellum and partly in paper.'

The MS. is indexed only under Lydgate. But as a matter of fact, the MS. contains about twelve poems by Occleve and only one by Lydgate. The MS. has been in the Bodleian by gift since about 1710.

The MS. index of this interleaved copy is full of omissions: e.g. it omitted the 'Codex Dunelmensis' of Terence (see par. 33, § iii).

Yet this MS. Catalogue, with all its defects, is the only clue the Library possesses to perhaps more than 1500 of its MSS.

11. Defect B (continued): *(e) Indexes in MS. of MS. Collections (without Catalogues belonging to them).*

Indexes in MS. slips exist for certain Collections; e.g. Ballard, 73 volumes; Browne Willis, 112 volumes; Hearne's Diaries, 191 volumes;—in all, to 376 volumes. Also to some of the Rawlinson Letters; say, therefore, to 400 volumes.

But the use of them by readers must be subject to several inconveniences and prohibitions. Thus, they are not generally known to exist, the table which gives the reader a knowledge of the existence of these Collections not stating that such indexes are to be found; the permission to use them must obviously be at the discretion of the Librarians and not of right; an attendant should stand by during the whole of the consultation to see that no foolish displacement is made; in the absence of a Catalogue, the references of the index convey very little information.

[On the consulting shelf an index to Ballard MSS. vol. 1–44 is accessible to readers; but it gives an index of the most meagre kind, and a separate index for each volume, necessitating forty-four enquiries each time it is used.]

Some 30 Collections of MSS., however, seem to have no index, even in MS.

12. Defect B (continued): (*f*) *Abbreviated lists without indexes.*

For about a dozen Collections, there is neither Catalogue nor index, but only a description in a Hand-list.

The inconveniences of this may be pointed out. It is questionable whether the Library could allow readers free use of its Hand-lists. At best, it could hardly be done without occupying the time of an assistant. Even if it was done, the Hand-lists have no index of their own, and the information they give is often of the most meagre kind: e.g. a press-mark and the name of a book (for instance, Auct. T. ' II. 26: Eusebii Chronicon').

Again, there is a sort of Hand-list of the Wood MSS., but it gives only the press-marks of the volumes, without any indication of their nature or contents, and does not even show that some are not MSS., but bundles of pamphlets.

13. Defect B (continued): (*g*) *Collections with no indication of their contents.*

I have reckoned that there are at least ten Collections which have no index, no Catalogue, and are not even described in a Hand-list.

It does not follow that these are unimportant. Among them is the John Walker Collection, in 24 volumes, being the materials which that writer used in compiling his 'Sufferings of the Clergy' under the Presbyterian domination. It came into the Library by gift in 1754; is reported by the few historical students who have examined it to contain most valuable papers for the ecclesiastical and personal history of England during the 'Great Rebellion;' but there is absolutely no Catalogue, no Hand-list, no index to it; and there is no arrangement in its volumes which might serve as a clue to their contents. Among them is also the Rawlinson Collection of Statutes of Oxford Col-

leges, etc., in exactly the same condition as the Walker Collection; an indication of the value of which volumes will be found in paragraph 20, § (i).

14. Defect B (continued): (*h*) *MSS. which seem to lie outside the stated Collections.*

For some time, readers in the Bodleian have found on a large table on paste-board laid on the sill of the east window a statement (less known than it should be) of the MS. Collections in the Bodleian, with an estimate of the number of their volumes and an indication of where the Catalogue of them, if any, is to be found. This statement contains, e.g., the Collections referred to in paragraphs 10–13 *supra*. But I am convinced that some, possibly a considerable number of, MSS. are in the Library which are not within the reckoning of these Collections.

In the short time which I was able to give to the enjoyment of a Proctor's privileges, as well as the discharge of a Proctor's duties, as Curator of the Bodleian Library, in consequence of the other more pressing duties of the Proctorship, I judged it well to confine myself chiefly to one Collection of MSS. And therefore I naturally selected the Wood Collection, about which I had some previous knowledge.

The table cited above gives 127 as the number of the Wood MSS. This number was possibly reached by adding together the press-marks of the volumes marked 'Wood MSS.,' and seems to me to be, as a matter of fact, considerably less than the true number of 'Wood MSS.'

Taking it, however, as correct, the Wood Collection now embraces the following MSS., none of which, it seems to me, can possibly be supposed to have been counted among these 127.

(i) Wood's yearly diaries, written in interleaved almanacs from 1657 to 1695, 39 volumes, which surely deserve to rank as MSS.

(ii) Wood's own copies of the Athenae Oxonienses

(vol. i.) and the Historia et Antiquitates, with copious notes by him, 'Wood 430,' 'Wood 431.' These were once reckoned as MSS. (see O. C. 8500), but now seem to have fallen between two stools and to have ceased to be catalogued as MSS. without finding their way into the Catalogue of printed books.

(iii) Letters of Wood, arranged alphabetically and bound in seven volumes.

(iv) Scraps of paper by Wood, chiefly biographical collections for the Athenae, now bound in five large volumes and at present kept in the Rawlinson Room. These volumes are an excellent piece of work, recently executed, the papers having been hitherto kept loose in a long wooden box, which (as an examination of the Ballard, Rawlinson, and Tanner Collections would suggest) had lost a good many of its contents while it was still in the Ashmole Library.

(v) A copy, in one large folio volume, of the English version of the History of the University. The greater part of this is in Wood's own hand; the missing portion has been supplied by a transcriber from the copy next to be mentioned. The copy which Gutch edited is in two volumes folio; was originally in the Ashmolean as 'Wood MSS. F.1 and F.2' (O.C. 8463, 8464); afterwards in the Archives of the University; now in the Wood Room in the Bodleian Library. The one volume copy was bought several years ago by the Library, and put in the Wood Room, without press-mark or reference in any Catalogue.

I had read for some years very carefully the several editions of the Wood Catalogue, and had taken some pains to learn the literature of the subject. But I am bound to say that I know of no way in which I could have guessed the existence of several of these volumes, except for the fortunate accident of obtaining through the Proctorship one year's free access to the Library, and by surveying one by one the MSS. and books in the Wood Room.

I have no ground for supposing that the Wood Collection is unparalleled in this respect in the Library.

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15. I may here interrupt the enumeration of the fragments of the Catalogue of MSS. in order to insert a criticism which has special reference to the fragments recently described.

The reader, I think, will now be able to appreciate the force of the following statement by one of the real students in MS. work in our Library, contained in a letter to myself on the subject of a Summary Catalogue of MSS. :—

'Whatever subject one is working at in the Library, one is constantly brought face to face with the fact that a large number of the MSS. in the Bodleian are absolutely uncatalogued; and, therefore, to all intents and purposes, useless. If one happens to be studying any particular branch of MS. literature, or any special class of MSS., one is practically confined to those MSS. which are described in the Quarto Catalogue. To hunt through the others' [by this is meant the MS. fragments and Hand-lists] 'on the mere chance of finding something, would in most cases be an utter waste of time. And that means that a large proportion of the MS. treasures of the Bodleian are inaccessible to the present generation.'

From my own experience, I entirely endorse this statement: and would add to its closing words these—'and may continue to be similarly inaccessible to several future generations, unless a decided change is made in the present system of cataloguing.' Of this, however, hereafter.

16. Defect B (continued): *(i) Special printed Catalogues for special Collections.*

I have reserved for the close of this analysis of the Catalogue of MSS. a more pleasing feature. In the early part of the 19th century, when considerable Collections were acquired, Catalogues of these Collections were printed.

Of this kind are the D'Orville Catalogue, 639 MSS., 1805; the Gough Catalogue, 520 MSS., 1809; the E. D. Clarke Catalogue, 50 MSS., 1812 (partly re-done in Coxe's Greek Catalogue); the Catalogus CLIII Codd. Borealium, 1828; the Malone Catalogue, 28 (out of 35) MSS., 1836; the Douce Catalogue, 393 MSS., 1840. With these may be put Humphrey Wanley's excellent account of 57 Junius MSS. and a few (perhaps 10) MSS. 'e Mus.' in his Antiq. liter. septentr. liber alter, 1705; and Britton's description of the (31) Aubrey MSS. in his Life of Aubrey, 1845.

But these Catalogues, as can be imagined, present several defects: in some, as in the Gough Catalogue, the arrangement is inconvenient; in some, the descriptions are occasionally inadequate, e.g. in the D'Orville Catalogue the ancient MSS. as a rule are not dated; in some, the indexes are unsatisfactory, e.g. the Clarke Catalogue has no index; some are possibly incomplete, e.g. the D'Orville Catalogue seems to omit 79 volumes. There is no uniformity in the scale either of Catalogue or of index. And to crown all, to gain access to 1881 MSS. eight separate Catalogues have to be consulted.

17. **Defect B (concluded)**: (*k*) *Special Catalogues in MS. are found of a few special Collections.*

Besides all these sets of fragments above stated there are, in a few cases, MS. Catalogues of some Collections. Thus, about 180 MSS. ('Gough Adds.') are said to be catalogued in the Library interleaved copy of the Gough Catalogue. There is a MS. Catalogue of the Smith Collection (140 MSS.) on the consulting shelf of the Library.

These MS. Catalogues are open to great objections:—

(i) They can be consulted only by a person actually in the Library;

(ii) There is no security that they are at all complete, or completely indexed;

(iii) The Catalogues and indexes are in no way uniform with the other Catalogues and indexes in the Library.

18. Defect B (summed up).

I think that I have now exhibited with sufficient fulness the defects of the Catalogue of the Western MSS. of the Bodleian Library as being fragmentary and irregular.

As regards the want of uniformity, these are the points :—

(i) I have shown fully (even to weariness) that it involves consulting no less than 18 volumes of Catalogue in print and 20 volumes in MS., without by any means exhausting the Collections and MSS. of the Library (see paragraphs 11–14).

(ii) I have shown that it involves consulting at least 16 separate indexes in print and 12 separate indexes in MSS., without exhausting the Collections and MSS. of the Library (see paragraphs 12–14).

(iii) I have shown that it implies many distinct systems of cataloguing; (*a*) that of the Quarto Series, (*b*) that of the Old Catalogue, (*c*) that of the Hand-lists; and in addition to these three, the varieties introduced by the old MS. Catalogues (described in paragraphs 10 and 17) and the special printed Catalogues (described in paragraph 16).

As regards the want of completeness of the Catalogue, these are the results, in round numbers, of the foregoing analysis :—

	Volumes of MSS.
Catalogued on the Quarto scale, in print or MS. .	9000
Other MSS. catalogued in the Old Catalogue . .	2500
Catalogued in special Catalogues, in print or MS. .	2200
MSS. still to be catalogued, most of them uncatalogued, some very imperfectly catalogued . .	4300
Total number of Western MSS. . .	18000

[These round numbers of mine are corroborated by an official estimate. In connection with my proposal for a Summary Catalogue of MSS., it was suggested that the number of volumes to be so catalogued (excluding those already fully catalogued in print) would be 11,000.]

19. Defect C. *Special inconveniences arising from the present condition of the Catalogue of MSS.*

In the condition of the Catalogue, as it is described in the preceding paragraphs, great inconveniences of necessity arise. It will not be amiss, however, to specify some of these and give examples of them. This I propose to do under four heads.

(*a*) Valuable MSS. lie hid in the Library, or come to light only by accident (par. 20).

(*b*) MSS. known to be in the Library cannot be obtained (par. 21).

(*c*) Change of press-marks causes great inconvenience (par. 22).

(*d*) MSS. are not properly safe-guarded (par. 23).

20. Defect C (continued): (*a*) *Valuable MSS. are found only by accident: and readers asking for them are told they are not in the Library.*

A few examples in different departments of research, of more or less recent date, will amply establish this proposition.

(i) As regards antiquarian studies, there are several examples:—

(*a*) An important Twyne volume ('liber notarum F') was found by me in the Library, noticed in no Catalogue or index, described in no Hand-list, unknown to the staff (see § vi in paragraph 9).

(*b*) In March or April, 1890, the Rev. H. Rashdall discovered among the Rawlinson Statutes Collection a volume (with T. Allen's autograph), containing (1) the original of the most valuable part of the Twyne volume mentioned above (the Statutes of S. Mary's College of Regular Canons, of date 1446; and of S. George's College, Oxford; two of the Monastic Colleges destroyed by the Reformation); (2) Statuta Aularia, of a date long anterior to the Laudian code. ('Rawlinson Statutes, 294.')

That this volume was unknown to the Library staff is

plain from this fact. In Mr. Macray's Catalogue of the Digby MSS. he describes this volume as formerly No. 84 in Thomas Allen's Library, but no longer capable of being traced; and it had then been for over a century in the Bodleian Library.

(*c*) When Jourdain published his 'Index Chartarum pertinentium ad Universitatem Parisiensem' no statutes of the College of Bayeux at Paris of earlier date than the 16th century were known to exist. The Rev. H. Rashdall has just found the original statutes of the College (founded 1308) in 'Rawlinson Statutes, 309.'

(ii) As regards modern literature:—

(*a*) The cases of Occleve and Lydgate (paragraphs 7, 9 § vi, 10 *supra*) are in point here.

(*b*) Dr. Moore had taken great pains to make his list of Dante MSS. in Oxford complete. Hardly was the list out of his hands when a 1380 Dante MS. ('MS. Add. C. 133') was found in the Library of the University, which had been entered in no index in the Library, and had therefore escaped his search. See his letter in the Academy, March 8, 1890.

(iii) As regards classical authors:—

(*a*) The MS. which is of primary importance for the text of Jerome's Chronicle had been for years in the Library with its importance concealed by the attachment to it of a date two centuries wrong. It was brought into notice only through the mistake of an attendant bringing to the reader this MS., and not the MS. he had asked for. See Mr. E. G. Hardy's paper in the Journal of Philology, vol. xviii. (1889).

(*b*) Some ten years ago Mr. T. W. Jackson drew attention to a most valuable MS. of Terence (the 'Dunelmensis') with drawings which was in the Library, but whose existence there was sufficiently concealed by its being entered in no index (see par. 33, § iii).

21. Defect C (continued): (*b*) *MSS. known or reasonably supposed to be in the Library cannot be obtained, without excessive trouble and delay.*

I can give three definite instances from my own very narrow sphere of work.

(i) If the reader will turn to No. 74 of the Catalogue of MSS. of Wood, prefixed by Gutch to vol. i. of his edition of Wood's Annals, he will find a full description of a MS. by Wood presented to the Bodleian by Dr. Rawlinson about 1737, with a statement of its contents. Being anxious to see this volume, I made application both to Mr. Madan and Mr. Macray and found that neither of them knew anything about it. I requested that search might be made for it, and more than a year elapsed without the volume being produced. Later on, in a copy of Gutch, I found a defaced pencil entry by some former student which looked like a press-mark. I then got one of the assistants to search among the old Hand-lists, and at last the volume was forthcoming 'MS. Bodl. 294.'

The fact that the volume was not capable of being traced in the printed Catalogues is sufficiently attested by its absence from Mr. Madan's 'MS. Materials for Oxford History' (1887). It is an important volume; and was obtained only after more than a year's delay, and even then not by the machinery of the Library but by an accident.

(ii) I have mentioned already (par. 9, § v), the obstacles in the way of my getting a MS. entitled 'Conciones Latinae, Anglicanis dictionibus intermixtae.'

(iii) Wood cites two or three times a MS. in the Bodleian which contains Augustinus de civitate Dei bound up with litterae Johannis de Bethlehem. No Johannes de Bethlehem appears in the index of the Old Catalogue, but that index cannot be relied on. Under Augustinus, there are 220 unclassified references. Having looked all these up, I find that nine of them are references to MSS. of the de civitate Dei; not one of which is described in the O. C. as having the litterae Johannis de Bethlehem

appended to it. But there are, as is well known, omissions in this Catalogue. To identify the MS. in question, or disprove its presence in the Library, it is therefore necessary to send for all the nine MSS.

A fourth example may be given:—

(iv) Mr. C. L. Shadwell, the occupant of Frewin Hall, which represents the Augustinian College of S. Mary, made frequent enquiries for a copy of the Statutes of that College, which he reasonably supposed from a note in Wood to be in the Library. In my endeavour to catalogue the MS. authorities cited by Wood, I instituted similar enquiries. For some years the diligence of the staff of the Library was applied to the discovery of these Statutes, but to no purpose. Yet all the while there were *two* copies in the Library, a transcript by Brian Twyne and the original from Thomas Allen's Library (see par. 9, § vi, par. 20, § i).

22. Defect C (continued): (*c*) *Change of press-marks causes great inconvenience.*

Out of the thousands of MSS. in the Library, a very large number, possibly the greater part, have changed their press-marks. In fact, many MSS. have changed their press-marks several times. They can therefore no longer be obtained by citing the press-marks referred to by scholars of the 17th and 18th centuries. The Catalogue, in its present state, gives little help in this matter; and several inconveniences in consequence arise.

(i) The time of the staff is wasted in answering enquiries. For example, a student writing a history of Chess, wishes to discover whether the MS. from which Hyde (in his 'de ludis Orientalibus;' Oxford, 1694) printed a curious Latin poem on Chess, still exists, and what is its present mark. He gives the subject and title of the poem and Hyde's reference to the Bodleian 'Cod. 58, p. 110, super Art.' Let my reader try to identify the reference or discover the item in the Old Catalogue for himself, and he will get some

idea of the time involved in answering this simple question. The reference is to fol. 110 b, of O. C. 2657; and the successive press-marks are Th. W. 3. 11, Med. 58 (=super D. 1. Art.), Arch. F. 58, Auct. F. 2. 14; and now MS. Bodl. 799. Having turned up O. C. 2657, he will find that the poem is omitted from the list of contents.

(ii) Manifold confusion is bred in the minds of readers.

The above is not the worst sort of change of press-mark. A more subtle and harmful sort is when the mark has been changed within the same series. Take this example. In preparing a list of the ancient halls of Oxford, I come across a note which tells me that there is a list of halls in 'MS. Bodl. 379.' This volume is examined, and discloses no such thing. I am naturally perplexed. The volume I want turns out, after some enquiry, to be now marked as 'MS. Bodl. 353.'

The following are its marks: O. C. 2495 *and also* 5106; F. 11. 18 N.E; MS. Bodl. 379; *now* MS. Bodl. 353.

(iii) Great waste of time is occasioned both to the attendants in the Library and to readers. One instance will show this better than a disquisition; and I therefore give one instance, not a solitary nor an extreme one, from my own experience.

A note by Gutch, a most trustworthy editor, informs me that 'MS. Ballard 20' contains a certain paper in Wood's handwriting. I therefore send for 'MS. Ballard 20;' and, after the usual time and trouble spent by the attendant in fetching the MS. from a room on a different level and recording the borrowing, the MS. is brought to my desk. I look it all through; and, finding no such paper, conclude that Gutch for once is wrong. Some time afterwards I learn that there is a slip Catalogue of the Ballard MSS. I consult this with the help of an assistant: and, having by this time the Proctor's freedom of the Library, I go to the Collection and look up the references. It turns out that for some occult reason 'MS. Ballard 20' has become 'MS. Ballard 70.'

To obviate such tedious enquiries, misconceptions, and inconveniences the Catalogue in its present condition gives very little assistance.

23. Defect C (concluded): (*d*) *MSS. are not properly safe-guarded.*

The reader of this paper will be able for himself to tabulate several ways in which books may be marked to ensure their identification with the Library which owns them.

There is a probability, therefore, that where a MS. has escaped being catalogued or placed in a Hand-list, it has further escaped being marked in any of those ways. Solon's precaution, as stated in the pro Roscio, forbids my saying more on this point.

II. Improbability of these defects being remedied under the present system within a reasonable time.

From a consideration of the defects of the Catalogue in its present condition, I turn to the consideration of the time at which we may expect them to be remedied by the Library possessing, in print, a complete Catalogue of its Western MSS., with indexes, drawn up on a uniform scale.

This question can be answered only by (*a*) an analysis of the work which is now being done in the cataloguing of MSS., (*b*) a forecast of the work likely to be done in the future, (*c*) a comparison of the results of these two with the arrears of the cataloguing of MSS.

24. Conditions under which MSS. are now catalogued in the Bodleian.

(i) *The staff to do the work.*

It is plain that the work of cataloguing MSS. of a Library like ours can be accomplished in any case only under the direct supervision, and in most cases only by the personal labour, of the staff of the Library.

Specialists may be called in, from time to time, to under-

take special work, such as the cataloguing of Japanese MSS. Some modern Collections may be catalogued by assistants, and revised by a member of the staff. Trained outside help may undertake the calendaring of small Collections; as, e.g. the Ballard Collection (73 volumes), which is now being dealt with in this way. But for the general work of cataloguing the Western MSS. the Library must, I assume, continue to trust to its staff.

This at present consists of the Chief Librarian, two sub-Librarians, and a 'Special Assistant in the MS. Department,' working half a sub-Librarian's time.

(ii) *The time available for the work.*

The staff of the Library has, of course, many calls upon its time and thought. There is the ordinary routine-work of the Library, involving the supervision of the various departments of work undertaken by the assistants; readers in the Library are constantly asking help to find what they want, both in the matter of books and MSS.; letters of inquiry from scholars have to be answered; books and MSS. have to be inspected and selected for purchase; the accessions of printed books (said to be at the rate of 13,000 a year) have to be catalogued the more difficult part of which work necessarily falls on the staff. It is obvious that when this routine-work is accomplished, it can only be a fraction of the time of the staff which will remain for cataloguing MSS.

The general management of the Library, with its multiplicity of duties, is confessedly enough to occupy the Librarian's whole time, and to prevent him personally taking part in the work of cataloguing.

Dr. Neubauer's special province and other duties are, quite as certainly, large enough to claim his undivided attention.

The work of cataloguing Western MSS. falls, therefore, on Mr. Madan and Mr. Macray; and, as they also have general duties in the Library, falls in reality on about half of their time.

(iii) *The work to be done.*

The work to be done in the Library in the MS. department must be viewed in two sections:—

(*a*) The cataloguing of those MSS. which from time to time are added to the Library by gift or by purchase;

(*b*) The cataloguing of those MSS. which are already in the Library, but are still uncatalogued or only imperfectly catalogued.

According to the present system, this cataloguing has to be done on the scale of the Quarto Series of Catalogues.

25. Work actually done on the Catalogue of MSS. during the last five years.

The above statement of the conditions under which the cataloguing of MSS. proceeds, will explain both the details which I am now going to give of what has actually been accomplished hitherto and the forecast which I am going to make of the probable rate of future progress.

Taking the annual accessions during the last five years, we may tabulate the work done on them as follows:—

(A) MSS. (accessions) catalogued by Mr. Madan.

	I. Fully catalogued.	II. Summarily catalogued.
1885	115	6
1886	111	26
1887	129	64
1888	71	74
1889	170	44
Total	596	214

During these five years two systems of cataloguing the accessions have gone on side by side, viz., (*I*) *cataloguing 'fully'* on the plan of the Quarto Catalogues; (*II*) *cataloguing on a summary plan*, which the Curators know under various terms:—as 'shortly described' (1885, 1888), 'catalogued on a less elaborate system' (1884), 'briefly catalogued' (1883, 1887), 'shortly catalogued' (1886).

I have to call special attention to this point, because an erroneous opinion is current that the yearly accessions have been fully catalogued up to date. On the contrary, it is clear that from the point of view of the Quarto Catalogue (which the Library at present regards as its definite scale) we have been every year *adding* to the arrears of work, and that at the rate of over 40 volumes a year.

Taking next what has been done to overtake the arrears of cataloguing MSS. already in the Library, we may state the work done in the following way:—

Mr. Madan has devoted to this duty what has remained of his time after the discharge of routine duties, after any special work which has been required of him, and after the cataloguing (as above) of the current accessions;

Mr. Macray, after discharging various special duties, has devoted himself to the work of cataloguing the 1369 volumes of 'Rawlinson D.:' of which he has now (April, 1890) catalogued up to No. 783.

Putting into a table the results achieved during the past five years, we have as follows:—

(B) MSS. (old possessions) catalogued.

	Mr. Madan.	Mr. Macray.
1885	128	138
1886	125	107
1887	36	49
1888	69	41
1889	20	18
Total	378	353

That is to say, together, 731 volumes of MSS. in five years; or an average of slightly over 146 a year, jointly.

What other work in cataloguing these Western MSS. is being done is of too slight a description seriously to affect the general result. This 146, therefore, is the divisor which, if the present rate of work might be kept up, we must use to ascertain the date at which the Library will possess a complete Catalogue of its MSS.

The dividend will be supplied by the three last items in the table at the end of paragraph 18 :—i.e. 9000 MSS. still to be done in the form of the Quarto Catalogue.

The quotient is over 61 (years), which gives the period which must elapse before the Catalogue on the present system can be completed. We must, however, make a deduction for a possible increase of speed when the cataloguers come to re-catalogue those MSS. already entered in special Catalogues; so that we may put 50 years hence as the probable date of the completion of the Catalogue of MSS., if the past rate of progress be maintained.

26. Forecast of the work which may be expected to be done on the Catalogue of MSS. for some years to come.

The conclusion reached at the end of the preceding paragraph is a sufficiently disheartening one: and it presents itself in a still more hopeless light when we take into account the certainty that, under existing conditions, even the present rate of progress cannot be kept up. For the following considerations must each receive due weight.

(i) If we take the second table in paragraph 25, we observe a marked diminution in the later years in the work of cataloguing old MSS., both in Mr. Madan's column and in Mr. Macray's.

The explanation in both cases is the same; in the later years of the five their other work took up more of their time, and consequently left a smaller fraction of it to be employed in reducing the arrears of cataloguing MSS.

Mr. Macray, it is understood, has been busy with State papers and with his 'opus magnum,' the Annals of the Library.

If the first and second tables in paragraph 25 are compared, the greatness or smallness of Mr. Madan's work in overtaking arrears in a given year will be found to be explained, to a large extent, by the smallness or greatness of his work in cataloguing new accessions.

Now what are the prospects of the years next to come?

The accessions of MSS. may be expected to vary (perhaps considerably) in amount from year to year; but it must always be something of an ambition with the Library to increase the purchase of MSS. rather than to diminish it. It must also be our hope that donations will grow more frequent rather than less frequent.

In the near future, however, we have the prospect of an exceptional, possibly, an unparalleled, increase. It is not necessary for me to define the total amount, but Members of Congregation are well aware that the University has this last term through two channels placed a very large sum of money at the disposal of the Library for the purchase, *if they think fit,* of MSS. from a given Collection.

Clearly this will affect the cataloguing of MSS. in one, if not in two, ways.

(*a*) To enable the Curators to determine whether they are to think fit or not, a very considerable portion of the time of Mr. Madan and Mr. Macray, the two great authorities on Western MSS. on the Library staff, may have to be consumed. There will be journeys, and examinations of MSS., and estimates of value to be made. And this even though the Curators decide finally to add nothing to the MSS. of the Library.

(*b*) On the other hand, if the Curators find that they can, with due regard to the interests of the University, employ to the full the funds they have been entrusted with, a very great accession of MSS., as good as altogether uncatalogued, will be brought into the Library. The cataloguing of this will of itself, on the present system, fully occupy Mr. Madan for some years. And during those years, the ordinary annual accessions to which this will be an extraordinary addition will have accumulated to a point which will take him some years more to overtake them.

The practical certainty, therefore, is that during the next two years Mr. Macray and Mr. Madan will be able to do

less than ever towards cataloguing MSS. already in the Library: the practical probability is that Mr. Madan will be withdrawn from this cataloguing of MSS. now in arrears for some five or six (or more) years.

This is only one consideration: there are more to be taken into account.

(ii) Mr. Macray is at present engaged on a Catalogue of Rawl. D., in continuation of his Catalogue of Rawl. A, B, C. Assuming, with the disturbances of his ordinary work alluded to in (i), that he is able still to average the number of 70 MSS. a year, it will take him eight years to complete the Catalogue of the Rawl. D. Collection, in which 586 MSS., some of them of more than average bulkiness, still remain to be catalogued. (See his average of just over 70 for the last five years, in par. 25.)

After that, it is understood that he is to resume his Calendar of the Clarendon State Papers, of which more than 4000 have still to be calendared. This is in every way an excellent arrangement. To say nothing of his veteran skill as a Cataloguer, which gives him the instinct of what to enter in a Calendar and what to omit, his special knowledge of persons, places, events, allusions, within this period, gives him an advantage in undertaking this work to acquire which would cost a new hand years of study.

Yet, it is clear, that if Mr. Macray is to complete the Calendar of Clarendon State Papers, he must be withdrawn for some years from cataloguing Western MSS. in the narrower sense in which we are now speaking of them.

(iii) I have once more, I trust for the last time in this paper, to ask the reader to refer back to the two tables in paragraph 25.

Taking these *together* into consideration, it appears that if Mr. Madan has much to do in cataloguing current accessions, he is able to accomplish less in reducing arrears. Taking the first only into consideration, it is plain that the amount of his work in cataloguing the current accessions has been much kept down by the practice of shortly

cataloguing certain MSS. (the topographical). This practice has ceased.

From 1890 onwards, begins the uniform practice of cataloguing on the Quarto scale every MS. which is added to the Library. What this change means in actual work my reader can see for himself if he will go to the Library, take out 'MS. Top. Oxon. c. 81' and 'MS. Top. Oxon. b. 23,' and compare these entries which have hitherto been possible :—

'Vice-chancellor's papers (Oxford University) 1828–1832.'

'Vice-chancellor's papers (Oxford University) 1828–1833,'

with the entries in the MS. Catalogue under 'MS. Engl. Hist. b. 2' (papers chiefly by Non-jurors, 1689–1710) or 'MS. Engl. Poet. d. 3' (Edward Pudsey's common-place book), which represent the Quarto scale of cataloguing. What this change means in actual practice is that, so far as one cataloguer is concerned, the yearly reduction of arrears in cataloguing MSS. now in the Library becomes insignificant or non-existent.

I ask Members of Congregation to take these three considerations, give them their due weight, and connect them with the statistics of what has actually been done during the last five years towards cataloguing MSS. which are already in the Library but are uncatalogued or badly catalogued. Then I ask them to form their own conclusion as to the date at which, under the present system, we may hope for a complete, uniform, indexed, printed Catalogue of MSS. in the Bodleian. I have been accused of levity in suggesting A.D. 2001; but the suggestion, I am convinced, is not wide of the mark.

27. III. Explanation of the origin of the defects.

I come to the third question which I proposed to touch on, the accounting for these serious defects in the Catalogue of MSS. in the Bodleian. Here, I think, we have good

reason to apply the Aeschylean doctrine, that we are suffering for sins of our fathers kept alive by fresh sins of our own.

In 1697 the Library (including the Ashmolean Library, since 1860 incorporated in the Bodleian) possessed, in a printed form, a fairly complete inventory, measured by the standard of the age, of its 7000 (or so) MSS., Classical, Oriental, Mediaeval, Modern, arranged according to the press-marks then in use, and with running numbers attached to them from the first volume to the last, an arrangement which the experience of two centuries has proved to be the only useful arrangement for purposes of reference.

[The running numbers of the O.C. are 1–8716; but considerable deductions have to be made from this total. The Leland MSS., e.g. 3117–3123, appear again at 5102 sqq.; and the numeration jumps from 4199 to 5100, an error of 800. The Ashmolean Collection is a puzzle, as to the number of volumes. On the other hand, a few numbers are repeated; some numbers (e.g. O.C. 8599) represent more than one volume; and Langbaine's Adversaria (21 vols.) seems omitted from the numeration. I insert this because it both justifies my claim for some latitude in arguing from the numbers in the O.C. (see par. 1), and shows the misleading data on which estimates of the number of volumes of MSS. in the Bodleian Library have been sometimes formed.]

During the next thirty years or so, additions were (regularly?) entered in MS. in an interleaved copy of the printed Catalogue.

Arrears seem to begin in 1729. In that year the Cherry bequest sent 42 volumes to the Library, which are to this day uncatalogued and unindexed, and about which the only accessible information is that they are 'miscellaneous.'

In 1747 we come to the first of three consecutive long tenures of the librarianship (1747–1768, H. Owen; 1768–1813, J. Price; 1813–1860, B. Bandinel), which appear, so

far as the important work of cataloguing MSS. is concerned, to have been generally inert, with the exception that some special Catalogues (see paragraph 16) were made.

The years 1754 and 1755 brought an increase to the MS. collections of the Library which seems to have completely paralysed its action. In 1754 came the Walker donation, 24 volumes; for which, see paragraph 13. The year 1755 brought the Ballard bequest, most important for Oxford history, 73 volumes, which is *still in process of being calendared*; also the Holman bequest (Essex Collections, in 30 volumes), of which there is as yet no index nor any Catalogue, except a mere description in a Hand-list kept in a part of the Library to which readers are not admitted. The same year brought the avalanche of Rawlinson's noble bequest, over 4400 volumes, of which over 1600, or considerably over a fourth, are still uncatalogued. Indeed, in some sections of the Rawlinson Collection there is to this day neither Catalogue, Hand-list, nor index.

From 1755, therefore, the Library has been permanently and even hopelessly in arrears with the work of cataloguing its MSS.

Towards the close of Dr. Bandinel's librarianship, the Library awoke to a consciousness of its arrears and began the effort to wipe them off. What the influence was which infused new life into the paralysed body, whether new Curators, or new sub-Librarians, or the pressure of outside opinion, or a new impulse of the Librarian himself, I do not know; but the novelty of the impulse is unmistakeable. Unfortunately, the plan of cataloguing adopted was, as many think, ill-adapted for the special circumstances of our Library.

In 1845 the new series of Catalogues, the Quarto Series, began to appear. The actual advance made by these is stated above in paragraph 7. The series is admirable, if we regard individual volumes or sections. But there is this

fatal objection to it, that after 44 years, it is still a fragment; and under the pressure of existing conditions, it threatens to remain a fragment for ever.

The reason is a simple one. The Quarto Catalogue is on a scale quite beyond the power of the Library staff to accomplish.

This Quarto Catalogue has advanced to the point it has done, only because at one time no attempt was made to catalogue *all* the MSS. of the Library on this system. During Mr. Coxe's time, when the Quarto printed Catalogue was making visible progress, the MSS. in the Bodl. Add. Series were being catalogued only on a summary method. The difference of the scale can be seen by any reader who will compare the Catalogue in the Quarto Series of some of these MSS. (see paragraph 8, § iii) with the short descriptions of others of the series, as found in their Hand-lists. The moment it was attempted to catalogue such MSS. on the Quarto scale, the rate of progress of the Quarto Series was visibly retarded.

Again, I have shown (in paragraphs 25 and 26, § iii) that even the reduced rate of progress with the Quarto Catalogue, as it has gone on in recent years, has been possible only because numbers of the MSS. which have been added from time to time to the Library have been catalogued on a summary plan. The moment it is decided to bring these within the scope of the Quarto Catalogue, the rate of progress of that series sinks to insignificance.

The adoption, to begin with, of the Quarto scale as *the ordinary form of the Catalogue of MSS.* of the Library, and the persistence with it since, in spite of the convincing evidence as to its impracticability, have produced the monstrous defects of the present state of the Catalogue of MSS., and the postponement to an indefinite period of the setting of them right.

28. IV. Alternative schemes for expediting the Catalogue of MSS.

It is clearly intolerable that the present method of cataloguing MSS. should go on, when it is next to certain that it cannot yield a complete Catalogue for fifty years or more, and when it appears that under various contingencies the completion of the Catalogue may be indefinitely postponed.

There are two possible directions in which we may look for a remedy.

(I) *A more manageable scale of Catalogue may be adopted* as the ordinary form of the Catalogue of MSS. of the Library. To the consideration of this alternative I shall come back presently.

(II) *The Quarto Catalogue may be pressed on at an accelerated pace* by doubling or trebling, for some years, the working staff of the Library.

As regards this alternative, it is for the University to say whether for some ten years to come it has the money to increase the funds of the Library by an additional yearly grant of £700, in the hope of having at the end of that period a complete Catalogue of MSS. on the Quarto scale. No lesser sum is likely to attain that end. The University will also have to consider (along with that) what other extra-ordinary expenditure will be required in the Library during that period in the way of providing for the shelving of the growing stock of books and MSS. Further, the University will have to decide whether, assuming it has the money to spend, the completion of the Quarto Catalogue is in itself to be desired, and is for the advantage of the Library and in the interests of readers.

That point is at least open to argument, for there are several grounds of objection to the Quarto Series in itself.

(i) Even in its incomplete form, it is of unmanageable size and very costly. How many individual scholars can afford either the money to purchase, or the space on their

shelves to accommodate, the nine volumes (some of them double volumes) which have already appeared? And if this is the case now, how will it be when the nine volumes have grown to twenty or twenty-five?

(ii) The series exhibits no unity of purpose. The most apparent plan of the series is to catalogue by Collections; but this is broken through by an attempt to catalogue by subjects,—there being a Catalogue of Greek MSS., a Catalogue of Persian MSS., etc. These Catalogues according to subjects show an appreciation of the fact that students in special subjects refuse to acquire a lumbering volume which catalogues books in many other subjects and a few in their own. It is much to be desired that the Press should publish comparative statistics of the sale of a Subject Catalogue such as the Catalogue of Greek MSS., and of the sale of Collection Catalogues, such as Laud Misc. or Canonici Misc.

(iii) The series treats in the same inflexible way both MSS. which deserve to be fully catalogued and MSS. which do not.

This paper has already been so spun out that I cannot print here examples of this. But the reader, if he chooses to consult the MS. portions of the Quarto Catalogue, will find examples in plenty.

E.g. let him look at 'MS. Engl. poet. d. 3' (Edward Pudsey's common-place book); estimate the amount of work expended on the Catalogue as he sees it; and the further amount (which he does not see) involved in indexing all the names mentioned: and then consider whether it is worth while cataloguing, indexing, and printing on this scale; even though in this case the Shakspeare references are important.

(iv) The series swells the index with a multitude of names which ought not to be given in a Catalogue but in a special work, and the indexing of which ought not to be undertaken by the Library but by readers for themselves.

Thus 'MS. Autogr. C. 4' would be amply catalogued for Library purposes, as—

'MS. Autogr. C. 4: signatures of Visitors to the Bodleian

Library and of recipients of Honorary Degrees since 1820' with a statement of material, size, number of pages, etc.

In the quarto form every name in it has been entered separately in the index, involving the expenditure of at least three weeks' labour of the cataloguer.

Again, the Library obtained by gift about two years ago a duplicate of the Matriculations Register of the University for a good many years. On the same system, every name entered in this register ought to be indexed in the general index of the Bodleian Catalogue.

These, and other considerations, show that the propriety of carrying on the Quarto Catalogue as it is being executed at present is at least open to question.

29. Summary Catalogues of MSS.

There remains the other alternative, the adoption of a simpler, shorter, and more speedy method of cataloguing our MSS.—which many readers in the Bodleian believe to be not only feasible, but in every way desirable.

The advantages of Summary Catalogues have long been known to scholars. With all their defects, the older inventories of MSS. of Montfaucon and Haenel have proved of immense service in regard to foreign libraries. And of late years the great Paris Library has deliberately adopted this system.

Between 1862 and 1871 M. Léopold Delisle catalogued summarily over 9700 Latin MSS. in his 'Inventaire des MSS. Latins de la Bibliothèque Impériale,' etc. . These MSS., it may be noted, he has arranged with *running numbers* (8823–18,613) in continuation of the old Catalogue published in 1744—an independent testimony to the usefulness of this system of numeration which is worth noting. It is true that there is no index: but this defect, though a great one, is partly atoned for by the wonderful lucidity of the arrangement of the book and the methodical subdivisions of the table, which give a fair clue to the matter you may be seeking for.

Another Catalogue of this kind is M. Ulysse Robert's 'Inventaire Sommaire des MSS. des Bibliothèques de la France' (1879–1882).

A third, worth especial attention, is M. Henri Omont's 'Inventaire Sommaire des MSS. Grecs de la Bibliothèque Nationale' (1886–1888).

The great Paris Library, therefore, has found it advisable to proceed by way of a Summary Catalogue. If any reader thinks that the help given by such a Catalogue is slight or insufficient, I have to ask him to look at any one page of Omont's 'Inventaire Sommaire.'

I have seen also within the last few months a similar work for Italy by an Italian scholar, but I have stupidly mislaid my reference to it.

30. Question of a Summary Catalogue for MSS. in the Bodleian.

For many practical purposes, the minute details, which cause the Quarto Series to be so tardy in execution and swell it to unmanageable bulk, are not required by any reader who has access either direct or indirect to our Library. These details seek to make the reader as far as may be independent of the MS. by substituting for his own examination of the MS. the labour of the cataloguer. But this is a work of supererogation.

Thus, a classical student would not grumble if he could find at a glance in a Catalogue of MSS. *all* the MSS. in which the works or a portion of the works of a given classical writer are found, with even the briefest indication of the date or importance of each MS. But he has very solid ground for complaint so long as the Catalogue does not give him this very simple amount of information. No fulness of detail in the extant portions of a Catalogue can compensate for the non-existence of other portions. No theoretical perfectness of a Catalogue which may be completed fifty or sixty or a hundred years hence can excuse in the eyes of a

student of to-day the neglect meanwhile of his very moderate demands.

The Library ought at once, therefore, to place in the hands of readers a complete inventory of its MSS.

Having had the need of such an inventory or Summary Catalogue forced upon me by the requirements of my own work, and having been urged by students in different branches of learning to take action in the matter, I ventured last term to lay before the Curators of the Library a definite scheme for the construction of such a Catalogue.

The details of this scheme, modified in some points by criticism, I reproduce here.

31. Scheme for a 'Summary Catalogue of MSS. in the Bodleian Library.'

Such a catalogue will possess three, if not four, divisions (but only one general index), which divisions ought probably to be dealt with in this order :—

(I) The Cataloguing of MSS. now in the Library, but uncatalogued.

(II) The cataloguing of MSS. which may come into the Library during the progress of this Summary Catalogue.

(III) The cataloguing of MSS. now catalogued only in the 1697 Catalogue.

(IV) The cataloguing of MSS. more or less fully catalogued in print already.

I. *Cataloguing of MSS. now in the Library but not in the Old Catalogue.*

[Note, unbound charters, rolls, deeds, etc., are, as stated at first, to be excluded from this Catalogue.]

These MSS. are to be catalogued in the following way :—

(i) Running numbers, beginning from 8717 (the running numbers of the Old Catalogue are 1–8716), are to be assigned to all MSS. in the Library, by order of Collections and MSS., the Collections and MSS. to follow each other (so far as is convenient) in the order of date of acquisition.

The present press-mark of each MS. is to be given; and the press-marks at former dates, so far as they can be readily ascertained.

[Where the MSS. so entered is:—

(*a*) A MS. in other than Latin, Greek, or later European languages; it is not further to be noticed here, except by stating its briefest title and making a reference to the special printed Catalogue (if any) in which it is catalogued. If such MSS. come in a series or in a Collection it will be enough to treat that series as in (*b*).

(*b*) A Western MS., but fully catalogued already in the printed Quarto Catalogue or in a special printed Catalogue; only its briefest title is to be given here, and a reference made to that Catalogue. When such MSS. come in sequence in a Collection, it will be enough to allow for the whole series in the numeration, and to refer to the printed Catalogue: e.g. say Nos. 12,001–12,153 'Codices Boreales:' see the Cat. Codd. Bor. etc.].

(ii) *In other cases*, the Catalogue is to go on to state the material, size, number of leaves and columns, approximate date, condition; giving also the transcriber's name (if known), place of origin (e.g. monastery or country where written), any former owners where they are readily ascertained, mode and date of acquisition, and a brief note of any special features (e.g. illuminations).

(iii) Thereafter, to give, numbering their sequence and stating the page on which each distinct treatise begins, the *briefest* statement of the contents of each MS.

Incipits, minute details, literary references, and the like are to be omitted unless the cataloguer thinks that they are of such exceptional value as to demand special record. Single documents are not to be separately cited but grouped together under comprehensive general heads: thus, in a volume of letters, it will be enough to state 'Letters to and from (with the names of the *principal* correspondents and the extreme limits of dates),' without giving the substance of each letter and the page on which it begins. If the

topics of the letters can be rapidly ascertained and briefly stated, these might be entered.

The details asked for in (ii) and (iii) above appear on paper to be numerous, but in practice it will be found that they neither take much time to discover nor occupy much space in the Catalogue. See e.g. Omont's Catalogue above cited, which practically gives all that is asked for above.

The following may be taken as rude specimens of the entries of such a Catalogue: Mr. Madan, of course, would do them better. [The running numbers are necessarily fictitious.]

'18,663; MS. Engl. Hist. c. 3; Magdalen College, Oxford, Papers.
In Engl. and Lat., on paper, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{7}{8}$ inch., chiefly transcr. by Miss Hopper in 1885–6, 165 leaves; presented by Oxf. Historical Soc. in 1887.
Papers relating to the contest between the College and King James II.'
[Indexed under Oxford (Magdalen College), King James II, and probably under 1688 in a chronological table.]

'18,666; MS. Engl. Hist. c. 6; Letters written 1696–1709.
In Engl. and Lat., on paper, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{5}{8}$ inch., 127 leaves, bought in 1887–8.
Letters chiefly about Anglo-Saxon literary matters and local events in Oxford, chiefly by Humphrey Wanley, Edmund Thwaites, and Arthur Charlet.'
[Indexed under Letters, Anglo-Saxon, Oxford, and the three names of persons.]

Any reader can see for himself the difference both in the Catalogue and index between such entries and the Quarto Series, by comparing these two with the MS. Catalogue on the reference shelf in the Library. He can also judge whether entries of this kind are not adequate for the purposes of a Catalogue which is to serve as a general guide to all the Western MSS. of the Library.

The reader can see also the usefulness of the running numbers for purposes of reference: who would cite a MS. as 'MS. Engl. Hist. c. 6 in Bodl. Libr.' when he could cite it as 'MS. 18,666 in Bodl. Libr.'? The former is clumsy and liable to change; the latter is simple and permanent.

As regards such details as the recording of press-marks and owners, a few words may be said.

The value of the former record has been explained *supra* in par. 21. It will not be a work of extreme difficulty to supply such a record. Where the old binding has been left, a valuable list of press-marks will often be found by the cataloguer just inside the book.

As regards the record of former owners, it is clear that it may often be of extreme value for determining the history of a MS. and suggesting its origin. It is not suggested that a systematic search should be made for the names of owners, but that those should be noted which are apparent from inspection of the MS.

I add some examples. 'Rawlinson Statutes, 294' is obviously from Thomas Allen's famous library and has his autograph. O.C. 8569 belonged to Lord Arundel, afterwards to Ralph Sheldon's equally famous Collection, was given by him to Anthony Wood, from whom it was bought by the Library in 1692. O.C. 8600 belonged in 1544 to George Hardley of Clifford's Inn, and was bought from Wood as above. O.C. 8601 belonged in 1682 to Thomas Lees (formerly of All Souls, Oxon.) of Faversham, Kent; was given by him to Wood; and bought as above. O.C. 6375 (now 'MS. Barlow, 49') was borrowed from the great Cottonian Library, by Dr. Prideaux and never returned. It was afterwards exposed for sale in Worcester and bought by Dr. Barlow, who bequeathed it to the Bodleian.

[It is not *necessary* that these names in connection with the history of the MS. should be entered both in the index and in the Catalogue. It would be sufficient if they appeared in one of the two.]

II. *Cataloguing of MSS. which may come into the Library while the Catalogue is in progress.*

These are to be treated in exactly the same way as those in (I); that is:—

(i) As soon as possible to have running numbers assigned

to them in continuation of those in (I): also the press-mark assigned to them.

(ii) To have the material, etc., stated as above.

(iii) To have the contents stated, on the above scale only.

III. *Cataloguing of MSS. at present catalogued only in the Old Catalogue of* 1697.

These are to be treated, *mutatis mutandis*, after the same fashion; thus:—

(i) To give the running numbers, 1–8716, as they occur in the Old Catalogue (noting, of course, the errors of the numeration); to add the present press-mark of each MS.; and former press-marks, so far as they can be readily found.

[Room could be found by the errors of the numeration of the O. C. to include the MSS. catalogued there but not included in the numeration.]

(ii) To state the material, size, etc., as above in (I) (ii).

(iii) As regards the statement of contents, there will probably be two antagonistic opinions:—

(*a*) Those who desire above all things rapidity and condensation, will say that the contents need not be noticed except so far as to mention any serious mistakes or omissions (see par. 9) which have been recorded as occurring in the Old Catalogue.

(*b*) On the other hand, the Old Catalogue is difficult to procure, and I believe for my own part that it would be for the advantage of the Library and of learning to treat the contents in these MSS. exactly as in the two preceding divisions, by revising them on the above scale, and inserting them in the text of the Catalogue. The work would not be great.

The three preceding would be indexed in one index.

IV. *MSS. already fully catalogued in print.*

This class of MSS. could be left alone, except for numeration and reference. But I believe that the sale of the above parts of the Summary Catalogue may prove to be so large as to induce the Curators to complete the Catalogue on that

scale by adding as occasion offers 'fasciculi' for these Collections. That, however, is a question for the future, not for the present.

32. Details of the work of such a Catalogue.

The production of this catalogue would, I presume, be assigned to Mr. Madan—Mr. Macray continuing his special work on Rawl. D. and the State papers. To facilitate its preparation, the portion of the routine-work of the Library which he has hitherto performed should be as far as possible discharged by the assistants; and the whole of the remainder of his time specially and constantly devoted to pushing on this Summary Catalogue. One of the more intelligent of the boys should be assigned to work for him solely, except that the first call on his time should be the ordinary attendance on readers in the Library: this boy would bring and take away MSS., page MSS., and do such other mechanical work as the cataloguer required.

In making the Catalogue, the cataloguer would expedite his work by employing all the MS. fragments of Catalogues, descriptions in Hand-lists, special Catalogues, and the like, which the Library possesses.

The cataloguer might carry on his work in such a way that it could be printed off sheet by sheet as it progressed in the order of the running numbers, and published in 'fasciculi' from time to time, each 'fasciculus' representing a Collection or a set of small Collections.

The cataloguer would provide an index, in MS. slips, of authors and matters, of press-marks, and of names of persons and places occurring in the statement of contents of each MS. This might be sorted out from time to time as the work progressed; and be accessible to readers, under due precautions, even before it was printed.

The Catalogue should be printed in a convenient 8vo form. Each 'fasciculus' might have as preface a brief statement of the history of the Collection or Collections it contained: and, if thought fit, a very short temporary

index of the authors of whom MSS. occurred in it. The general index would be published last of all, in a separate volume.

I enter into these details, not because I consider myself qualified to direct Mr. Madan in producing such a Catalogue, but because it is not out of place to show that the whole plan of a Summary Catalogue can be definitely laid down before the Catalogue is begun, so as to ensure that the work will be done uniformly and progressively.

33. Advantages of a Summary Catalogue.

A Catalogue drawn up on these lines would possess many features of merit.

(i) *The Summary Catalogue would furnish, within a few years, a complete guide to the Western MSS. of the Library.*

Supposing that we printed our Quarto Catalogue up to the last scrap which existed in MS. at the end of 1889, the Quarto Catalogue in some 44 years (1845–1889) has supplied a clue to only 9000 MSS. (see par. 7 and 8). Contrast with this the rate of progress of a Summary Catalogue:—L. Delisle's 'Inventaire,' etc. (*supra* par. 29), gives 9700 MSS. in nine years (1862–1871).

I see no reason for doubting that, if the work is arranged for on the lines laid down in paragraph 32, a Summary Catalogue would overtake all the arrears of cataloguing MSS. in our Library within seven or less years. Under arrears of cataloguing, I include both MSS. quite uncatalogued and MSS. imperfectly catalogued: and I have made provision for the ordinary accessions of the years during which the Catalogue will be in progress.

Not only would the completion of the Catalogue be thus brought almost within grasp; but after a year's work, each year would see some portion or portions of it printed and placed in readers' hands.

(ii) *This complete guide to our Western MSS. would be contained in a moderate compass adapted to readers' private use.*

Three or four octavo volumes would contain the whole Catalogue: and such volumes might be expected to command a large private sale, which cannot be looked for in the case of the Quarto Catalogue, that being suitable only for Libraries (see par. 28, § II).

(iii) *The Summary Catalogue would effect an immediate and perpetual saving of the time of the staff, and avoid much heart-burning among readers.*

Questions of many kinds which can now be answered only by the staff, and by them only after enquiry, would in future be readily answered, even by readers themselves, from the Summary Catalogue.

I have given an instance (par. 21) of the questions which are asked about press-marks. I may give here an instance of another sort of question.

Mr. T. W. Jackson, of Worc. Coll., set himself more than ten years ago to try to find the 'Dunelmensis' MS. of Terence. This was so named by Leng in 1701 (because its then owner lived in Durham county), and treated by him as his best MS. It was also the best of Bentley's MSS., after whose time it disappeared. Ritschl, and other German scholars, recognising its importance, had made fruitless enquiries after it, and concluded that it was lost. Mr. Jackson naturally began his search after this MS. in the Bodleian. The Librarian (Mr. Coxe) at once ordered the assistants to put Mr. Jackson in the way of seeing '*all the Terences*;' and Mr. Jackson went through carefully all the Catalogues and indexes, and had out all the MSS. he could find any clue to. Thereafter Mr. Jackson searched libraries in the North of England, in London, and Cambridge. Finally, having learned from Leng's edition (which was then not in Bodley) that 'Dunelmensis' had 'pictures,' and finding a note in Valpy's Delphin edition that the Bodleian had a Terence MS. 'with pictures,' Mr. Jackson, remembering that there had not been a MS. of this sort among those which had been shown him in Bodley,

returned to the Bodleian and made enquiries about a Terence 'with pictures.' Mr. Coxe at once produced the MS. from Auct. F.: he had known it by sight for some years as a remarkable MS., but was quite unaware that it was not entered in the index in the interleaved copy of the O.C. Notwithstanding all the fruitless search for this MS., it had been in the Bodleian since 1721.

This will serve as one, out of many, instances of enquiries causing much trouble to the Library staff and disappointment to readers.

But it will be said, 'This happened ten years ago,' to which the simple answer is that the Catalogue of MSS. is still a fragment, and disappointments of this kind are still possible. Only the other day, a classical student placed in my hands details of his recent discovery in the Bodleian of an important MS. of a classical author which could not be found in any Catalogue or index: but I omit them, desiring not to deprive him of the credit of first making this discovery known.

With a Summary Catalogue, the occasion for such questions and the possibility of such disappointments would be removed.

(iv) *The Summary Catalogue would enable the Library to do justice as between trifling and valuable MSS.*

The Quarto scale of Catalogue, which is now adopted as the uniform scale for the cataloguing of MSS., is far too detailed except for MSS. of intrinsic value. I have given an instance already (in par. 28 (II) § iii): I may add another here, not because it is specially striking but because it can be stated very shortly.

'MS. Add. C. 290' is a statement of certain clergy in London, in 1844, who held 'Puseyite' views.

In a Summary Catalogue this would appear in something like this form:—

'18,236; MS. Add. C. 290;' a list of Puseyite clergy in London, 1844.

'On paper, 13½ × 8¼ inch., 19 leaves, written in London about 1844.'

The references to be entered in the index would be under 'Clergy,' 'London,' 'Pusey,' and possibly in a chronological table under 1844.

In the Quarto Catalogue the names of the clergy, nearly 100, are given, with their respective parishes; and their names when given in initials have to be supplied from a Clergy List of that date. And there are thus added to the index quite 200 additional names of persons and places. I ask the reader to see this MS., and to consult the MS. Quarto Catalogue of it, and then to decide whether time, labour, and money are not thrown away by such cataloguing.

If now we had a Summary Catalogue, trifling MSS., once shortly catalogued, might be left in that stage, and really valuable MSS., at a later date, catalogued more fully in consideration of their value.

(v) *The Summary Catalogue would enable the Library to supply important monographs in special departments of learning.*

With such a Catalogue, supplying a complete guide to the contents of the Library, the Curators would have it in their power to ask one of their staff to prepare an exhaustive Catalogue of the MSS. of the Library on a given subject which seemed to require recognition and help: e.g. MSS. relating to John Wycliffe; MSS. relating to the Great Civil War; Celtic MSS., etc. The person to whom this duty was entrusted would have before him when he began his work an easy clue to every MS. in the Library which bore on the subject. Where the MS. was trifling, he could use what was given him in the Summary Catalogue; where it was important, he could re-catalogue the MS. as fully as he desired.

This is what the British Museum Library has begun to do, and will probably do on a still larger scale in the

future. In the Catalogue of Additional MSS., that Library has something of the nature of a Summary Catalogue (though more extensive than is really needed), which enables it to publish more extended Catalogues in definite subjects or languages.

Thus: there is a special 'Catalogue of Spanish MSS. in the British Museum Library.' In this special Catalogue MS. Adds. 14,017 is catalogued on ten and a half pages; in the general Catalogue this MS. is noticed in three lines only (with a reference to the Spanish Catalogue). So also MS. Adds. 22,503 occupies fifteen pages in the Spanish Catalogue, and only eight and a half pages in the general Catalogue.

Again, there is a similar special 'Catalogue of Romances in the British Museum Library.' In this special Catalogue MS. Adds. 24,969 occupies almost four pages; in the general Catalogue only one page and a half. Again, *part of* MS. Adds. 24,973 occupies about a page of the special Catalogue; in the general Catalogue *the whole* MS. is catalogued in ten lines.

These instances have been taken 'ad aperturam' of the two Catalogues: I believe that half-an-hour's search would produce more telling instances.

(vi) *The Summary Catalogue would ensure a complete survey of the MSS. in the Library; would detect losses and displacements and omissions; and supply an invaluable instrument for verification in future years.*

In the making of the Summary Catalogue all the MSS. in the Library would be brought under the view of one member of the staff. He would detect those many MSS. whose safe custody the Library has omitted to ensure, and would protect the Library against loss by having MSS. stamped, numbered, press-marked, entered in Hand-lists, and at least briefly described in the Catalogue. There has been, I fancy, no such review of the MSS. in the Library since the formation of the Catalogue of 1697; and such